

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Application No. 09/822,693  
Amendment dated April 25, 2003  
Response to Office Action of Oct. 25, 2003

**Claim Amendments**

A complete list of all the presently or formerly pending claims in the application is provided below, with suitable headings to show the status of each claim.

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Claim 1 (Original): A method of operating a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising:

supplying an oxidant reactant stream to the cathode electrode of said fuel cell;

supplying a fuel reactant stream to the anode electrode of said fuel cell;

monitoring a temperature parameter indicative of the operating temperature of said fuel cell; and

when said temperature parameter is below a predetermined threshold value, reactant starving at least a portion of one of said electrodes.

Claim 2 (Currently cancelled without prejudice)

Claim 3 (Currently cancelled without prejudice)

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Claim <sup>5</sup>~~4~~ (New): The method of claim 1 wherein said reactant starving is intermittent.

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Claim ~~5~~<sup>6</sup> (New): The method of claim 1 wherein said reactant starving comprises interrupting the supply of one of said reactant streams to said respective fuel cell electrodes.

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Claim ~~6~~<sup>7</sup> (New): The method of claim ~~5~~<sup>6</sup> wherein said method comprises intermittently interrupting the supply of one of said reactant streams to said fuel cell electrodes.

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Claim ~~7~~<sup>8</sup> (New): The method of claim ~~5~~<sup>6</sup> wherein said one of said reactant streams is said fuel reactant stream.

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Claim ~~8~~<sup>9</sup> (New): The method of claim ~~5~~<sup>6</sup> wherein said one of said reactant streams is said oxidant reactant stream.


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Claim ~~9~~<sup>10</sup> (New): The method of claim ~~5~~<sup>6</sup> wherein said fuel cell is one of a plurality of fuel cells arranged in a fuel cell stack.

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Claim ~~10~~<sup>11</sup> (New): The method of claim ~~9~~<sup>10</sup> wherein said supply of one of said reactant streams to each of said plurality of fuel cells is not simultaneously interrupted.

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Claim <sup>12</sup>~~11~~ (New): The method of claim 1 wherein said method comprises connecting a transient electrical load to draw electrical power from said fuel cell.

  
Claim <sup>13</sup>~~12~~ (New): The method of claim <sup>12</sup>~~11~~ wherein said method comprises intermittently connecting a transient electrical load to draw electrical power from said fuel cell.

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Claim <sup>14</sup>~~13~~ (New): The method of claim <sup>12</sup>~~11~~ wherein the rates of supply of said reactants to said fuel cell electrodes are not increased in response to the connection of said transient load.

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Claim <sup>15</sup>~~14~~ (New): The method of claim <sup>12</sup>~~11~~ wherein said fuel cell is one of a plurality of fuel cells arranged in a fuel cell stack, and the connection of said transient load to draw power from each one of said plurality of fuel cells is not simultaneous.

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Claim <sup>16</sup>~~15~~ (New): The method of claim 1 wherein said reactant streams are essentially free of electrocatalyst poisons.

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Claim <sup>17</sup>~~16~~ (New): The method of claim <sup>16</sup>~~15~~ wherein said fuel reactant stream is substantially pure hydrogen.

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Claim <sup>18</sup>~~17~~ (New): The method of claim <sup>5</sup>~~4~~ wherein said fuel cell is one of a plurality of fuel cells arranged in a fuel cell stack and said reactant starving causes a voltage reversal to occur in at least one of said plurality of fuel cells.

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Claim <sup>19</sup>~~18~~ (New): The method of claim <sup>18</sup>~~17~~ wherein said fuel cell is one of a plurality of fuel cells arranged in a fuel cell stack and said reactant starving causes a voltage reversal to occur in at least one of said plurality of fuel cells.

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